

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for watching around a vehicle, comprising:
an imaging device including;

a casing disposed on an outer side of said vehicle
and having a pair of right and left transmission window
portions in either side of said casing,

a prism contained in said casing in the form of an
isosceles triangle in section with a vertical angle directed
to a front part of said casing, the right and left sides
of said prism which correspond to the equal sides of the
isosceles triangle being directed to the respective right
and left transmission window portions, and

an imaging element disposed to the rear of said prism
and used for converting a ray of light into an image signal
by concentrating light on an imaging plane via an imaging
lens, the ray of light being incident on one of the right
and left sides of said prism, reflected from the other
side of said prism and emitted from the rear side of said
prism, and

internal reflection preventive means for preventing stray
light from undergoing total reflection in said prism being formed
outside an effective area with respect to said imaging lens
disposed to the rear side of said prism.

2. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 1,
wherein

said internal reflection preventive means is an internal
reflection preventive film having a refractive index greater
5 by 0.766 time than the refractive index of said prism.

3. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 2,
wherein

said internal reflection preventive means is an internal
10 reflection preventive film having a refractive index greater
by 0.9 time than the refractive index of said prism.

4. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 2,
wherein

15 said internal reflection preventive film is formed of black
paint which absorbs the stray light.

5. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 1,
wherein

20 said internal reflection preventive means is an adhesive
member for sticking to the rear side of said prism a buffer
member for buffering said prism with respect to a predetermined
holder for supporting said prism.

6. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 5,
wherein

the refractive index of said adhesive member is greater
by 0.766 time than the refractive index of said prism.

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7. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 6,
wherein

the refractive index of said adhesive member is greater
by 0.9 time than the refractive index of said prism.

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8. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 5,
wherein

said adhesive member is colored black so as to absorb the
stray light.

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9. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 1,
wherein

said internal reflection preventive means includes a light
scattering plane formed outside an effective area with respect
to said imaging lens disposed to the rear of said prism.

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10. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 9,
wherein

black paint for absorbing stray light is applied to the
light scattering plane.

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11. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle in claim 1,
wherein

light absorbing means for absorbing light resulting from
5 the partial reflection of the stray light from the side of said
prism is formed in part of the side of said prism.

12. An apparatus for watching around a vehicle, comprising:
an imaging device including;

10 a casing disposed on the outer side of the vehicle
and having a pair of right and left transmission window
portions in either side of the casing, and

a prism contained in said casing in the form of an
isosceles triangle in section with its vertical angle
15 directed to the front part of the casing, the right and
left sides of the prism which correspond to the equal sides
of the isosceles triangle being directed to the respective
right and left transmission window portions, and

an imaging element disposed to the rear of said prism
20 and used for converting a ray of light into an image signal
by concentrating light on an imaging plane via an imaging
lens, the ray of light being incident on one of the right
and left sides of said prism, reflected from the other
side of said prism and emitted from the rear side of said
25 prism, and

light absorbing means for absorbing light with the partial reflection of the stray light from the side of said prism being formed in part of the side of said prism.

- 5 13. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein

said light absorbing means is black paint.

- 10 14. An apparatus for watching around a vehicle, comprising:
an imaging device including;

a casing disposed on the outer side of said vehicle and having a pair of right and left transmission window portions in either side of said casing,

15 a prism contained in said casing in the form of an isosceles triangle in section with a vertical angle directed to the front part of said casing, the right and left sides of said prism which correspond to the equal sides of the isosceles triangle being directed to the respective right and left transmission window portions, and

20 an imaging element disposed to the rear of said prism and used for converting a ray of light into an image signal by concentrating light on an imaging plane via an imaging lens, the ray of light being incident on one of the right and left sides of said prism, reflected from the other
25 side of said prism and emitted from the rear side of said

prism, wherein

corner portions formed with the sides of said prism and the rear side of said prism are cut in a range excluding a range of horizontal viewing angles of said prism.

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15. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle as claimed in claim 14, wherein

a light scattering plane is formed on each of the surfaces formed by cutting the corner portions.

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16. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle as claimed in claim 15, wherein

black paint for absorbing stray light is applied to the light scattering plane.

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17. The apparatus for watching around a vehicle as claimed in claim 12, wherein

said light absorbing means is black paint.

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